

Modifications and substitutions to the present invention made by one of ordinary skill in the art are considered to be within the scope of the present invention, which is not to be limited except by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a workstation communicatively coupled to a network; and

a managed appliance communicatively coupled to the network;

wherein the workstation operatively locates the managed appliance across the network and operatively sets the IP configuration of the managed appliance across the network.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the workstation causes the managed appliance to store an IP address as the IP address of the managed appliance.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the managed appliance stores the IP address and uses the IP address for communication across the network.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the managed appliance operatively communicates keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between a plurality of computers and the network.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the workstation causes the managed appliance to store a subnet mask as the subnet mask of the managed appliance.

6. The system of claim 2, wherein the IP address stored by the managed appliance is transmitted from the workstation to the managed appliance across the network using a communication protocol.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the communication protocol exchanges messages via User Datagram Protocol.
8. The system of claim 4, wherein the managed appliance operatively communicates keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between a plurality of computers and the workstation.
9. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a second workstation communicatively coupled to the network; wherein the managed appliance operatively communicates keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between a plurality of computers and the second workstation.
10. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a second managed appliance communicatively coupled to the network; wherein the workstation operatively locates the second managed appliance across the network and operatively sets the IP configuration of the second managed appliance across the network.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein the network is a wireless communication network.
12. A managed appliance for communicating keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between a plurality of computers and a network comprising:
 - a circuit for transmitting a reply message in response to a request message received across the network by the managed appliance from a workstation, the reply message including the IP configuration of the managed appliance;

wherein the circuit sets the IP configuration of the managed appliance in response to an instruction message from the workstation to set the IP configuration of the managed appliance.

13. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein, in response to the instruction message, the managed appliance stores an IP address as the IP address of the managed appliance.

14. The managed appliance of claim 13, wherein the managed appliance uses the IP address for communication across the network.

15. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein the managed appliance is coupled to the plurality of computers and communicates the keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between the plurality of computers and the workstation.

16. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein, in response to the instruction message, the managed appliance stores a subnet mask as the subnet mask of the managed appliance.

17. The managed appliance of claim 13, wherein the IP address stored by the managed appliance is transmitted from the workstation to the managed appliance across the network using a communication protocol.

18. The managed appliance of claim 17, wherein the communication protocol exchanges messages via User Datagram Protocol.

19. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein the managed appliance operatively communicates the keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between the plurality of computers and a second workstation across the network.

20. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein the network is a wireless communication network.
21. A method of configuring a device across a network, comprising:
 - (a) transmitting a request message across the network;
 - (b) transmitting a reply message in response to the request message, the reply message including at least a portion of an IP configuration of the device;
 - (c) transmitting an instruction message instructing the device to set an IP configuration parameter; and
 - (d) setting the IP configuration parameter in the device in response to the instruction message.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the IP configuration parameter is an IP address.
23. The method of claim 21, wherein the IP configuration parameter is at least one of the group of an IP address, a subnet mask, and a gateway address.
24. The method of claim 21, wherein the device is a managed appliance.
25. The method of claim 21, wherein the device is a managed appliance for operatively communicating keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between a plurality of computers and a network.
26. The method of claim 21, wherein the IP configuration parameter is transmitted from a workstation to the device using a communication protocol.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the communication protocol exchanges messages via User Datagram Protocol.

28. The method of claim 21, wherein the device is a managed appliance for operatively communicating keyboard data, cursor control data, and video data between a plurality of computers and a workstation.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the network is a wireless communication network.

30. The system of claim 1, wherein the workstation transmits a discover request message across the network to the managed appliance, and the managed appliance transmits a discover reply message to the workstation in order to operatively locate the managed appliance.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the workstation transmits a set IP configuration request message to the managed appliance, and the managed appliance transmitting a set IP configuration reply message to the workstation in order to operatively set the IP configuration of the managed appliance.

32. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein the managed appliance receives a discover request message from the workstation, and the managed appliance transmits a discover reply message to the workstation in order for the managed appliance to be operatively located by the workstation.

33. The managed appliance of claim 32, wherein the managed appliance receives a set IP configuration request message from the workstation, and the managed appliance transmits a set IP configuration reply message to the workstation in order to set the IP configuration of the managed appliance.

34. The method of claim 21, wherein the request message is a discover request message, the reply message is a discover reply message, and the instruction message is a set IP configuration request message;

wherein, after step (c), transmitting a set IP configuration reply message containing at least the IP configuration parameter.

35. A method of configuring a device across a network, comprising:
transmitting a discover request message from a workstation on the network to a device on the network;

transmitting a discover reply message from the device, the discover reply message containing at least a portion of the IP configuration of the device;

transmitting a test IP configuration request message to the device;
transmitting a test IP configuration reply message from the device, the test IP configuration reply message indicating a result of the test IP configuration request message;

transmitting a set IP configuration request message to the device; and
transmitting a set IP configuration reply message from the device, the set IP configuration reply message containing at least one IP configuration parameter of the device.

36. The system of claim 1, wherein the managed appliance is communicatively coupled to a plurality of computers;

wherein, after the IP configuration of the managed appliance is set, the managed appliance transmits to the workstation information corresponding to at least one of the plurality of computers.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the information includes a value of an object identifier associated with the one of the plurality of computers.
38. The system of claim 36, wherein the information transmitted by the managed appliance includes values of object identifiers associated with the at least one of the plurality of computers.
39. The managed appliance of claim 12, wherein, after the IP configuration of the managed appliance is set, the managed appliance transmits to the workstation information corresponding to at least one of the plurality of computers.
40. The managed appliance of claim 39, wherein the information includes a value of an object identifier associated with the one of the plurality of computers.
41. The managed appliance of claim 39, wherein the information transmitted by the managed appliance includes values of object identifiers associated with the at least one of the plurality of computers.
42. The method of claim 21, wherein, after the IP configuration of the device is set, the device transmits to a workstation information corresponding to at least one of a plurality of computers communicatively coupled to the device.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein the information includes a value of an object identifier associated with one of the plurality of computers.
44. The method of claim 42, wherein the information transmitted by the device includes values of object identifiers associated with the at least one of the plurality of computers.
45. The method of claim 35, further comprising:

transmitting from the device information corresponding to at least one of a plurality of computers communicatively coupled to the device.

46. The method of claim 35, wherein the information includes a value of an object identifier associated with one of the plurality of computers.

47. The method of claim 35, wherein the information includes values of object identifiers associated with the at least one of the plurality of computer.

48. The system of claim 1, wherein the workstation operatively tests the managed appliance to determine if it can store the IP configuration before the workstation sets the IP configuration of the managed appliance.